GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:34
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
DISCONTINUANCE OF AIR SERVICE BY VIRGIN AIRLINES
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;M.H. AMBAREESH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Virgin Atlantic has decided to discontinue its operations between India and London;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to review the issue;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the total number of flights operated by Virgin Airlines from India vis-a-vis flights operated by Air India to UK?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): Virgin Atlantic has served a notice to terminate their agreement with Air India on 12th February, 2002, because of financial non-viability of their existing operations, which will be effective after a six month notice period. Representatives of the two airlines have also met in London in June, 2002, to discuss the issue, which ended inconclusively. The two airlines have agreed to meet again before the notice of termination becomes effective.

(e): Virgin Atlantic is presently operating twice weekly services between London and Delhi out of Indian side`s entitlement under a code share/block space agreement with Air India. Air India on the other hand is operating 11 flights per week to/through UK.